

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

Monday, September 13, 1999

Present: June Bailey, James Johnston, Joe McLeland, M.S. Mitchell, Leon Robinson, Andy Schlapp

Absent: William Sanders

Also Present: Jamsheed Mehta and Mark Klein, Wichita-Sedgwick County Metropolitan Area Planning Department; Blaise Plummer, Law Department; and Tim Martz, Janice McKinney and Maryann Crockett (Staff)

AGENDA

First Vice President Mitchell called the meeting to order at approximately 3:35 p.m. The minutes of the regular meeting of August 9, 1999, were reviewed and approved.

1. **Proposed KDOT Enhancement Program for 2001.** Jamsheed Mehta, Wichita-Sedgwick County Metropolitan Area Planning Department, began the presentation by providing a handout of sixteen proposed projects for the 2001 KDOT Enhancement Program. He explained that projects could be submitted under three categories; namely, Bicycle and Pedestrian Trails; Scenic and Environmental and Historical Preservation. He commented that the City was requesting over \$7 million dollars under Bicycle and Pedestrian Trails for fiscal year 2001 and that many of the projects would probably not be funded. He reviewed previously approved projects including the crossing over the big ditch, which he explained was a joint City/County project; Zoo Blvd. along I-235 down to Central St.; the Central St. pedestrian bridge and the three pedestrian bridges along the 3rd St. floodway.

Mehta briefly reviewed each of the proposed projects. He said the City hired a consultant to provide engineering details for each of the proposed projects and that design costs were included in each proposal. There was discussion on several of the projects.

Bailey and Schlapp expressed concern regarding why two of the paths ran parallel to each other at Boeing. Mehta explained that one of the paths was currently under construction and that the new path being proposed would connect to another section of the bicycle trail. He added that he would check to see if it was possible to change the scope of the project currently in progress.

Bailey asked why the K-96 bike path has not been constructed yet. Mehta said he understood that there were some complications relating to access easements along the project. He added that the Public Works Department handles project construction. Mitchell requested that the Board be furnished a status report on the K-96 bike path at the October board meeting.

Bailey expressed concern about development of an east/west bike path. She also asked why there were no projects west of the big ditch. Mehta explained that many of the east/west arterial streets were heavily developed and paths were not possible; however, he said staff was looking at possible railroad abandonments that might be applied for to develop an east/west connection. He commented that one proposed project west of the big ditch had been turned down by KDOT previously, but that staff was looking for other projects to introduce in the future.

Staff requested clarification on how the proposed Arkansas River path would cross the fence along Hydraulic. Mehta briefly explained how the path looped underneath an overpass and traversed along the fence line on the East side of Hydraulic.

Staff asked how the local match would be funded and if the Park Department Capital Improvement Program (CIP) would be reduced if the proposed bike path projects were approved. Mehta explained that the local share was covered by a specific line item in the CIP.

Mehta concluded the presentation by stating that the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission would be meeting Thursday. He requested that the Park Board provide a letter supporting the proposed projects.

On motion by Bailey, second by Robinson, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED to request that staff prepare a letter stating that the Board supported the projects as presented for the bike path system.

2. **Annual Election of Officers.** First Vice President Mitchell requested that a slate of officers be nominated. Bailey nominated M.S. Mitchell for President, Schlapp nominated June Bailey for First Vice President and Joe McLeland nominated Leon Robinson for Second Vice President.

On motion by Bailey, second by McLeland, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED that nominations cease. The slate was unanimously elected.

3. **Request for Utility Easement – Pawnee Prairie Park.** Acting Director Martz referred board members to a copy of the proposed utility easement attached to the agenda. He said the easement consisted of approximately forty-one and one half square feet and was needed to connect to a sanitary sewer line. He said staff recommended that the easement be granted, provided that park property was restored to its original condition. He added that the Development Coordinating Committee, Water Department and Public Works Department had reviewed the easement. There was brief discussion.

On motion by Bailey, second by Robinson, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED to grant the easement provided park property was fully restored to its original condition.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Pawnee Prairie Nature Center – Lease Agreement.** Acting Director Martz reported that Sedgwick County has agreed to allow the Citizen Participation Organization to use the County Extension building for their monthly meetings at no charge until the Community Center at Auburn Hills Golf Course is completed and operational.
- **Botanica Expansion.** Acting Director Martz reported that this item would be presented to the Development Coordinating Committee and City Council prior to coming back to the Board. He said Botanica, Inc.'s Long Range Planning Committee was defining features they wanted included in the future expansion.

Blaise Plummer clarified that Botanica has a twenty-five year management/use agreement with the City and that Botanica, Inc. did not own the land the garden was located on. He also mentioned that the heirs of Arthur Sim would need to be contacted before any changes were made in Sim Park.

There was discussion concerning the President attending meetings of Botanica's Board of Trustees. Staff stated that the Botanica Board meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Since the President and First Vice President had scheduling conflicts, it was agreed that Second Vice President Leon Robinson would attend the Botanica meeting on Wednesday.

- **Cowskin Channel Cleaning.** Acting Director Martz reported staff had cleared all creek blockages within Swanson and Pawnee Prairie Parks and were awaiting direction from Storm Water Management regarding removal of debris on private properties.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- **Status Report – Northeast Sports (Stryker Soccer) Complex.** Acting Director Martz reported that the City had entered into a contract with Ritchie for maintenance and establishment of turf at the twelve soccer fields. He said Ritchie would be subcontracting the work with Tree Top Nursery. He said after the first of the year, the project would be turned over to the Park Department. He commented that additional staff and resources had been programmed to come on line at that time. He concluded by reporting that Dan Grohn, Public Works, was project manager. He said staff has initiated CIP dollars, were proceeding with plans for the entry road and were looking at an overall plan for the project.
- **Status Report – Schell Park.** Acting Director Martz referred board members to a copy of the plan concept for the park attached to the agenda prepared by Larry Hoetmer, Park Landscape Architect. He commented that staff would be presenting the concept to the North River Bend Neighborhood Association that evening. He briefly reviewed the plan noting the youth soccer field (for age's fourteen years old and under), additional parking along Woodland, paved pathway system, two picnic shelters and additional landscaping. He said a funding source and time line had not been established for the proposed project. He mentioned that USD #259 had offered two additional sites for youth soccer at 33rd St. and Arkansas and the McLean School at 21st St. and Columbine. In addition, he said three

possible locations had been identified at Evergreen Park. He said staff has received numerous telephone calls from neighbors of Evergreen Park and that they would be presenting the proposed plan to that neighborhood association in the future. He also mentioned that another soccer group had approached staff about fields for next spring.

- **Vacant lot at Tyler and Maple owned by Mennonite Housing.** Acting Director Martz said staff would be evaluating purchase of this property along with other planned land acquisitions and projected CIP funds. He commented that several other possible acquisitions would require development funds including Kellogg & Bluff, the K-96 Lake and South Lakes Park.

Bailey asked about the status of the Meyers Nursery property. Robinson asked about the status of the Greiffenstein school site. Martz mentioned that the City was exploring the possibility of acquiring a site that would accommodate a park, fire station and regional library in South Wichita. He said he would be receiving further direction from the Manager's Office on land acquisition in the future.

OFF THE AGENDA ITEMS

- Bailey invited board members to the dedication of the Third Street Park being hosted by Wichita Independent Neighborhoods (WIN) Wednesday, September 15, 1999, at 6:00 p.m.
- Bailey asked about the status of the Park Board Retreat for new board members. Staff said they wanted to poll board members on time preferences. Staff said they would prefer an afternoon or evening meeting.
- Mitchell requested a financial report. Staff commented that since the Board was advisory, they didn't think providing a financial report was necessary. Mitchell specifically mentioned fees and requested that the Board be provided information on revenues and expenses.
- Mitchell said the City Comprehensive Plan was currently being updated. He provided board members a copy of his memo dated September 13, 1999, subject: 1999 Review of Comprehensive Plan. He said the "Parks and Pathways, Park and Open Space Plan" approved by the City Council in 1996 recommended \$53 million dollars be spent for new park facilities. He said he felt the recently completed Park and Recreation Facility Study took precedence and requested that the Board be involved in the review of Comprehensive Plan. Acting Director Martz mentioned that he had met with Planning Staff to review and update plan objectives regarding park and open spaces. Mitchell requested that review of the Comprehensive Plan be place on the October agenda.
- Bailey said she wanted to thank Larry Hoetmer for his work on the paved path at Kiwanis Park. Acting Director Martz agreed that Hoetmer had done a good job overseeing the project and following-up with the contractor.
- Bailey invited board members and staff to numerous events occurring during the week to celebrate the All-America City award from the National Civic League.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 5:15 p.m.

M.S. Mitchell, President

ATTEST:

Maryann Crockett, Clerk